< Course

CS-E4730

Course materials

Your points

Lecture questions

« 1. Week: Introduction to CSS

In this exercise you will answer questions related to this weeks lecture.

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Note that you can submit the answer to each question only once. The questions are designed to be easy if you have followed the lecture. Note that the questions can vary slightly between students.

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⚠ The deadline for the assignment has passed (Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 19:00).

Social sciences and physics

Question 1 10 / 10

As discussed in the lectures, when were the use of methods of modellign people similar to atoms etc in physics initially suggested for studying social phenomena.

- Several scholars already in the 1700s introduced these ideas. For example, Laplace talked about methods of physics in political sciences and Quotelet introduced the term of social physics.
- O These ideas were first introduced in the "Manifesto of computational social science" published in the 2012 in the European Physical Journal. This was followed the first agent-based models that modelled humans with computer simulations similar to simulations done earlier in physics.
- O These ideas were first introduced in the article "Computational Social Science and Sociology" published in 2020 in the Annual Review of Sociology.
- Correct!

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Comte's hierarcy of sciences

Question 1 10 / 10

Which of the following statements best describes Comte's hierarchy of sciences:

- Social sciences are the most complex of the sciences and has least general laws. It builds on other sciences below it in the hierarchy.
- O Social sciences are the most fundamental and important field of study, since they deal with the most basic principles of reality.
- O Social sciences are not considered part of Comte's hierarchy of sciences at all, since they deal with the subjective and cultural aspects of human society rather than objective and universal principles.
- Correct!

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Computational social science

Question 1 10 / 10

Which statement is most true about computational social science as a whole as described in the lectures?

- O Computational social science deals with simulations of where people/groups of people/organisations etc are modelled as agents. These simulations are known as agent-based models, and often describe how simple behavioral patterns of individuals lead to emergent behavior and interesting phenomena at the society level.
- O Computational social science deals with digital traces that people leave behind in the modern society and uses them together with computational methods to analyse society and social phenomena.
- O Computational social science analyses large-scale social networks using computational methods.

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- While all of the above are true, computational social science can include elements from all of these subfields. That is, it includes a multitude of methods such as agent-based models, data analysis of digital traces, and social network analysis.
- Correct!

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